Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03936 172113Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /068 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1268
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 3936

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL BEGINS VOTER REGISTRATION

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3701, (B) TEGUCIGALPA A-30

- 1. VOTER REGISTRATION AND THE PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS BY LOCAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNALS BEGAN ON SCHEDULE AUGUST 15, AS CALLED FOR BY THE ELECTORAL LAW (REF A). THE REGISTRATION PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL AUGUST 30, 1979.
- 2. REPORTEDLY THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE SHORTAGE OF MATERIAL AND TRAINED PERSONNEL AT THE TEGUCIGALPA CENTER, WHILE SOME REMOTE AREAS PROBABLY STILL DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES. ROLANDO IRIATE, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAJORITY OF LOCAL TRIBUNALS WERE FUNCTIONING WITH NEAR NORMALITY.
- 3. IN AN INTERVIEW JUST BEFORE THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE MILITARY JUNTA, NATIONAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT VIRGILIO GALVEZ TOLD EMBASSY POLOFF AND VISITING DESK OFFICER OF HIS BECONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03936 172113Z

LIEF VOTER REGISTRATION START-UP PROBLEMS WOULD BE OVERCOME VERY QUICKLY. HE DESCRIBED LONG HOURS WORKED BY HIS STAFF TO BEGIN REGISTRATION ON SCHEDULE AS WELL AS HOPED FOR SAFE-GUARDS TO HONEST OF PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: TEETHING PROBLEMS ARE ONLY TO BE EXPECTED IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

WAS GIVEN (REF A) TO ESTABLISH THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM, I.E., SINCE JUNE 1. ALL FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES MUST STILL COMPLY WITH CERTAIN ELECTORAL LAW PROVISIONS BY DECEMBER 31 TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR THE ELECTIONS. BOTH THE NATIONAL AND LIBERAL PARTIES HAVE TO SUBMIT AMENDED STATUTES (REF B), WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND INNOVATION AND UNITY PARTIES MUST ALSO SUBMIT INSCRIPTION REQUESTS SUPPORTED BY TEN THOUSAND CERTIFIED SIGNATURES. THE FOUR PARTIES CLAIM THEY ARE NOW READY OR NEARLY READY TO COMPLY.

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